TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 2292 - HB 2454

March 11, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (015413): Establishes that the educational justification exemption from certain obscenity laws does not apply if the obscene material is possessed by a person with the intent to sell, distribute, or display the material to a minor. Revises internet use policies for schools. Requires a provider of digital or online resource for the local education agency's (LEA's) computers to provide safeguards against users accessing materials that are harmful to minors. Requires an LEA to establish a mechanism for a student or student's parent or guardian to report technology failures to block or prevent access to obscene materials through online resources at a school. Requires each LEA to submit an annual report on technology failures to block obscene material to the State Board of Education.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed legislation broadens the type of content that is deemed harmful to minors and requires a school's internet use policy to comply with Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-901.
- LEAs, schools in the Achievement School District (ASD), and State Special Schools (SSS) currently use technology to block and filter materials that are harmful to minors and this technology will be able to filter additional harmful content in compliance with the proposed legislation.
- LEAs, the ASD, and SSS can continue to use existing filtering technology and comply with the revisions to internet use policies for schools within existing resources. Any state or local fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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